

• Abroad •

Hassi-el-Gassi, Algeria. Behind many of the French international moves—in relation to Algeria, Bourguiba, the NATO command in the Mediterranean—lies growing confirmation of the oil potential of the Sahara. A third major oil field, just proved at Hassi-el-Gassi, may be an extension of the Hassi-Messaoud field which, together with the first (Edjeleh) was discovered in 1956. The French geologists believe that, with Hassi-el-Gassi, the known Sahara reserves are lifted into third place, behind the Middle East (which has two-thirds of the known world supply) and North America, and just ahead of the Soviet Union. Vast Sahara gas fields have also been proved. The pipeline routes to the Mediterranean and Europe, the first of which is scheduled to open this autumn, run through northern Algeria and Tunis.

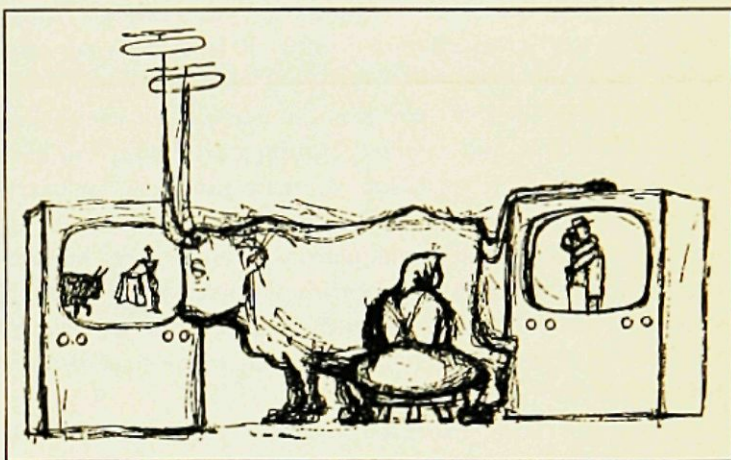
Rome, Italy. Careful observers are convinced that the "independence" from the Communist Party, voted by Pietro Nenni's left-wing Socialist Party at its recent convention in Sicily, is illusory. They point out that the real base of Communist influence rests not on resolutions or programs but on an "apparatus" of 1,500 functionaries, holding key Socialist Party posts throughout Italy, who are dominated and financed by the Communists.

Bonn, West Germany. The visit recently paid to Nikita Khrushchev by Erich Ollenhauer, leader of the West German Social Democratic Party, has revived speculation about the mysterious role of Herbert Wehner, who has acted since the war as Ollenhauer's confidential foreign affairs expert, and who is believed to have originated the idea of the Khrushchev visit. Wehner, born in Dresden in 1906, joined the Communist Party of Germany when he was seventeen. By 1930 he was secretary of the Party in Saxony. In 1935 he left Germany to operate as a Communist in Prague and Paris. For a while he worked on the Moscow radio, and afterwards went to Stockholm, where he was arrested as a Communist agent. After his release from jail in 1944 he declared that he had broken with Communism; and in 1946 he returned to Germany. He was quickly reintegrated into the Social Democratic Party, under the patronage of the Ollenhauer faction. By 1949 he was a Social Democratic member in the Bundestag, and has continued ever since as Ollenhauer's adviser.

Munich, Germany. H. U. Kempfski, a Roving Editor of *Sueddeutsche Zeitung*, happened to be standing by when Khrushchev, on the last day of his recent visit to East Germany, started to faint as he left the East Berlin hall where he had been speaking. Bodyguards at once surrounded him, and the lights were dimmed. Earlier, Khrushchev had had a conversation with Fraulein Fassbinder, a well-known West German poetess, who berated him for pursuing "a devious policy." "I know," Khrushchev replied, "that in geometry a straight line is the shortest distance between two points, but politics is different.

A Russian proverb says: 'Only the raven flies in a straight line but it gets him nowhere.' A politician has to make detours to arrive at his goal."

Teheran, Iran. The Soviet Union is now beaming five half-hour broadcasts daily into Iran, the content of which is suggested by a comment of Foreign Minister Ali Asghar Hekmat: "Our mighty neighbor shows a total disregard for the principle of non-interference in our affairs and resorts to slander, lies, evasions and equivocations. Soviet propaganda directed against Iran is conducted through expatriate Tudeh Party [Communist] men, regarded as traitors by the Iranian people." Some observers believe that by a boomerang reversal, Moscow's onslaught is convincing the Iranians that the Shah and his government are firm guardians of Iranian interests.



L'Express, Paris

Paris, France. The French, always solicitous for the glory of their language, have just issued a semi-official "Practical Guide for the Municipal Orator." This provides mayors with sample speeches for all possible occasions: Mother's Day; dog show (two models); reception for the local bishop; acceptance of the Legion of Honor (four models); children's Christmas party; opening of a swimming pool; funeral of the mayor of the neighboring town, etc. The Bastille Day oration includes quotes from Michelet, Mme. de Staël, Montaigne, Montesquieu, Rousseau and Clemenceau; for Mother's Day, Victor Hugo is featured. For opening a pigeon show, a reference to Noah's messenger from the Ark is tastefully linked to a stirring reminder of how the workers communicated during the siege of the Paris Commune.

Sydney, Australia. Billy Graham's Australian visit, which has gone almost unremarked in the European and American press, has had an extraordinary effect. About half a million Australians—out of a total population of under ten million—have attended the meetings that Dr. Graham continued in spite of serious eye trouble. The local churches report a large and persisting influx of returned or new members from those who reached "decisions" at the meetings, and there are other signs of an impression deeper and more lasting than was made by the meetings in England, France and New York.

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